(b) if so, the date on which the proposals were made and what is the status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) In their letter dated 2-4-85, the Government of Kerala stated that they had not taken at final view regarding the setting up of a Bench of the Kerala High Court. No further communication has been received from the State Government in this regard.

Prevention of non-serious candidates from fighting elections

447. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to deal with the problem of non-serious independent candidates who file nominations without any intention of contesting seriously but instead posing a threat to the entire electoral process;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken to keep away such independent candidates from contesting elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 1990 which is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha contains certain proposals to discourage non-serious independent candidates from contesting elections. One such provision is to increase the security deposit in case of an independent candidate to 5000 rupees and in case of a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to 2500 rupees. Another proposal is to provide State funding to a certain extent only to the candidates belonging to recognised political parties and not to any independent candidate. Incidentally it may also be mentioned that the Bill contains a provision that no election should be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate.

It is also proposed to make further indepth study in the matter as a part of general electoral reforms.

Setting up of additional benches of High Courts

448. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up additional benches of different High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to establish Benches of Gauhati High Court in the Capitals of Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh after